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A DESCRIPTION OF FOUR SYRIAN COINS SHOWN TO THE BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

[From the Collection of HENRY DEARBORN FOWLE.]

I SELECTED the four out of many, as very good illustrations of what I esteem to be the most important use of Numismatics,—a guide to historical studies and a testimony to historic truth. Indeed, coins may be regarded as authoritative and almost infallible witnesses or vouchers, if genuine, rather than as bearing testimony of the same nature with that offered by many other monuments, for they bear truth *on their face*, and their *legends* are competent, if not always credible evidence.

In a word, it seems to me that of all classes of historical monuments, the most explicit, widely spread, accurate, curious and *portable* information may be gleaned from, and found in, coins. This fact is well illustrated by the recurring references had by careful historians and editors to such works as Eckhel's *Doctrina Numorum Veterum*.

The earliest of these pieces is probably of Antiochus III. (the Great,) of Syria, who reigned thirty-six years, from B. C. 223 to 187. The coins of this king, with the exception of those struck during the early years of his reign, are said to be readily distinguishable by the singular features impressed upon them, especially the long nose (*protractior nasus*, Eckhel calls it). The head is encircled by the Syrian diadem. The reverse has an image of Jupiter seated, holding in his right hand a statuette of Victory and in the left a spear. The inscription is ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ | ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ | ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ. The mint mark or date is AAA.

The title Epiphanes, was first assumed, says Eckhel, by his son Antiochus, though the title was adopted earlier by the Ptolemies, and used by kings not known as Epiphanes commonly. While I am writing I think it possible that the piece may be an early coin of Antiochus IV. retaining the obverse of the same die of the preceding reign. This by the old method of coining, (the obverse, for instance, engraved on an anvil and the reverse on a punch,) might easily be true. But on the whole, as the workmanship on the reverse is rude and unlike the undoubted coin of Antiochus IV. we have here, I am inclined to the opinion that it is to be

added to Eckhel's catalogue of types of the coins of Antiochus the Great, whose actions are so fully related in the prophecies given in Dan. xi. 10-19.

The second coin is the most interesting, for it is of Antiochus Epiphanes, whose career is so fully throniced in Maccabees, and foretold in the book of Daniel. In Rollin's History of Alexander's Successors, the life of this king is fully collated with the prophecies I have mentioned. The second persecution of the Jews by Antiochus occurred in 167 B. C., when, according to Rollin, the Samaritans offered a petition to the king in which they declared themselves not to be Jews, and to be anxious to dedicate their temple on Mount Gerizim, which till then had not been dedicated to any deity in particular, to the Grecian Jupiter. In a note, the reason for this expression is given that the Jews never uttered the word Jehovah. This petition, says Josephus, (*Ant.*, lib. xii, c. 5,) was addressed to Antiochus Epiphanes *ΘΕΟΣ*. So also, says Eckhel, with I believe the same reference. This title *ΘΕΟΣ* as the incarnation of Jupiter was borne by Antiochus in the eighth year of his reign, which began 175 B. C.

I would like to quote here one verse from Daniel viii, 11, "Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down."

This prophecy had more immediate reference to the first persecution in 170, but in Dan. xi, 28-30, are contained the words, "he shall return and have indignation," &c., which came to pass in 167, when Antiochus exasperated by the action of Popilius, a Roman ambassador, turned his rage upon the Jews and persecuted them a second time, when the title *ΘΕΟΣ* was certainly used. At this time, too, an ordinance was published, by which all the Jews were commanded, under pain of death, to change their religion, and officers were sent to pollute the temple, and abolish the worship of the Most High. "They accordingly dedicated this temple to Jupiter Olympius, and placed his statue in it."

In 165 or 166 B. C. occurred the famous games at Daphne near Antioch, in which the king acted the part described by Dan. xi, 21. We are informed by Ammianus Marcellinus, lib. xxii, § xiii, treating of the year of our Lord 362, during the reign of Julian, as follows: "Eodem tempore, die xi. Kalend. Novembrium, amplissimum Daphnai Apollinis fanum, quod Epiphanes Antiochus rex ille condidit iracundus et sævus, et simulacrum in eo Olympiaci Jovis imitamenti æquiparans magnitudinem, subita vi flammaram exustum est." See Eckhel for this reference.

The death of Antiochus was during the year 164 as given in 2 Maccab. and attested by Polybius. Rollin cites from 2 Maccabees, ix, 12, as the last words of Antiochus *ΘΕΟΣ* "It is meet to be subject to God; and man who is mortal should not think of himself as if he were a god." We must allow here that the sudden death of Antiochus was attributed by some, not Jews, to a divine judgment for the desecration of the temple at Elymais. (See the reference to Polybius in Rollin.) The coin before us has on the obverse the head of the king encircled by a diadem. Reverse, Jupiter, or Antiochus in this guise, seated, holding a statue of Victory in the right hand, and in the left a spear. Inscription: *ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ | ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ | ΘΕΟΥ | ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ*. In

the exergue is a monogram, probably the date of the piece. Without a more careful study, I can only conjecture that it is a combination of the letters *A* and *A* signifying *ΑΥΚΑΒΑΝΤΟΣ ΔΕΚΑΤΟΥ*, viz. 165 B. C.

The title of deity is of course the most interesting object of investigation in regarding this coin, for never before the coinage of this prince do we find the assumption of this character or manifestation of a Supreme Being or Jupiter.

The word *ΘΕΟΥ* is undoubtedly to be rendered as a noun substantive; neither is the additional ascription *ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ* to be considered as qualifying this. The ascription *ΕΠΙΦΑΝΗΣ* may have been given to this Antiochus first among Syrian kings, though our explanation of the former tetradrachm would militate against this. But the title had been already used by the Ptolemies in Egypt, and in considering its meaning at the time, more than a century and a half before our typical Epiphanes, we find that it is best translated illustrious—as Eckhel says, *illustris aut nobilis*. The Roman emperors copied this and the superlative *ἐπιφανέστατος* by *illustris* and *illustrissimus* upon their coinage. This title, too, was assumed on earlier coins of Antiochus than those claiming deification during life, if we may judge by the order in Eckhel's catalogue.

I speak of a deification during life, or rather a self-deification, for the ascription of divinity as of a hero or demigod occurs not unfrequently after the time of Alexander, and is found upon the coins of Ptolemy Philadelphus, struck with "*ΘΕΩΝ*," in honor of his deified parents Soter and Berenice. So Ptolemy III. inscribes "*ΘΕΩΝ ΑΔΕΛΦΩΝ*" on pieces dedicated to the memory of Philadelphus and his sister-wife Arsinoe.

Antiochus II. is usually known in history as Antiochus Theos, which name Eckhel says was given him by the Milesians after he had driven away their ruler Timarchus; with a reference to Appian's History of Syria. It is also stated that Eusebius, with his translator Jerome, calls him Deus. So says Rollin, adding that the Lemnians had already bestowed the same title on his father and grandfather, and erected temples to their honor; also, the people of Smyrna to his mother Stratonice. (Athenæus.)

However consistent with the ideas of the time were such honors, they were never assumed by kings during life and set forth in terms upon their own coinage, before the distinct claim to deification was made by Antiochus Epiphanes, exhibited on the tetradrachm before us, who, in Eckhel's words, "was translated, while living, to Olympus." There are certain coins, it is true, attributed to Antiochus II. Theos by Pellerin, bearing a star over the head; this probably is a symbol of apotheosis, as is found on the later Roman coins of Julius Divus—some such pieces bearing the legend "*consecratio*." However, these coins, in the opinion of Eckhel, may be referred to Antiochus IV. The early coins of Antiochus adopt the diadem, which early appears on the coins of the Cæsans of Thessaly—the "*caput radiatum*" of Hercules. The divine diadem was assumed by Ptolemy Soter and his successors in Egypt, and by the kings of Parthia before the time of Antiochus. Among the Romans, Eckhel says Nero first adopted the diadem, though the head of Augustus on coins was so adorned after his death. The second class of coins of this Antiochus has the title *ΕΠΙΦΑΝΗΣ*, of which I have already spoken.

The third class appears with the title "ΘΕΟΥ." Others now appear with "ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΝΙΚΗΦΟΡΟΥ," with a statue of Antiochus as Zeus.

In connection with these instances of the self-styled personification of Zeus by Antiochus, we may regard with interest the origin of the name Maccabeus, according to some antiquaries, cited in Hearne's Collection of Curious Discourses, namely, M. C. B. I;—the initials of the Hebrew words of Exodus xv, 15, *Quis sicut tu Deorum Jehova?* serving as a foundation for a name.

The third coin is a tetradrachm of Demetrius Soter, son of Seleucus IV. of Syria, and nephew of Antiochus Epiphanes. Demetrius copied from Antiochus the name ΘΕΟΣ, I believe, although the word is not used in this instance. The coin has on its obverse the head of the king wearing the Syrian diadem, and on the reverse a female figure, perhaps Plenty, seated, holding in her right hand a bacillus and in her left a cornucopia. The inscription is "ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ | ΑΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ | ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ," and the date in the exergue Ε Ρ. The name Soter was given by the Babylonians to this prince after he had slain Timarchus, who ill administered affairs, if my reference is correct.

The fourth coin is of Alexander I. who was styled Theopator, Euergetes, Epiphanes and Nicephoros, and who is better known perhaps by his title, Bala. This Bala slew and succeeded Demetrius, who had before slain a son of Antiochus Epiphanes, whose brother Bala claimed to be. Chapter x of the book of Maccabees recognizes Bala as Epiphanes. The description of the tetradrachm is, Obverse, Head with diadem, to left. Reverse, Jupiter seated, holding in his right hand a statue of Victory; in the left, a spear. Inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ | ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ | ΘΕΟΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ | ΕΥΕΡΓΕΤΟΥ. Mint mark obliterated. The reference to Antiochus as ΘΕΟΣ would seem to indicate that the title was not of custom assumed by Syrian or other kings.

Many examples of the practical value of coins towards an intimate knowledge of history, though of a different nature from the instances given, may be found in reference to their service as chroniclers of events, determining dates. The funeral urns containing the ashes of the burnt bodies of the Romans almost always contain the date of cremation in some pieces of money; as the smaller pieces, not struck by the authority of the Senate, had scarcely any currency after the death of the emperor whose impress they bear. We read in Walker's History, illustrated by medals, that "the first act of power generally was to recoin the money of the former emperor." This fact by the way may explain the beautiful preservation of what remain of the Roman smaller brass.

From these coins, obtained from urns and those deposited under the corner stone of edifices, a close approximation may be made to the period of Roman metropolitan rule in Britain and to the advances of the Saxons. The coins of Carausius and Allectus with a galley stamped upon them, and the singular rose nobles of Edward III. have been appealed to by some writer for Great Britain to testify to the dominion of the sea so long claimed by her. I shall not attempt to instance the value of our study in other respects, as of

interest to the lover of the fine arts, whether sculpture, engraving or architecture. With regard to the latter we have the work of Professor Donaldson, "Architectura Numismatica," and as an instance for the former classes we need refer to no books, but to the Greek coins themselves. So there is a manifest interest in this subject for the philologist and the student in ancient inscriptions, in mythology and classical antiquities. There is much of interest to the student of Church history in the legends of the Virgin and saints and the *novus temporis reparatio* of Diocletian.

WILLIAM ELIOT LAMB,
Corresponding Member.

To the Boston Numismatic Society.

THE GHOST OF CONTINENTAL MONEY.

Though I'm dead and forgotten,
Though my carcase is rotten,
And my honor is sleeping in dust,
Yet my visage, so hoary,
Now rises before you,
To warn you, my friend, of the worst.

I advise you to lie
Where you are, and to die—
Oh!—ne'er to remove any farther;
Should you come from the womb,
You would wish it a tomb,
You'd curse both the midwife and mother.

Why need I relate
That series of fate
Which plunged me in woe and disaster—
How I first was respected,
And then was rejected,
And at last dwindled down to a plaster.

The States, they united,
Their honor they plighted,
But all was a whim and a sham;
But before my escape, sir,
Not all I could scrape, sir,
Would buy the poor soldier a dram.

I have lived, to be sure,
A while to secure,
The rights of a much injured nation;
But I got all my living,
By a course of deceiving,
That has sunk me in utter damnation.

I'm dead and departed—
But quickly I started
To hear of your sudden conception;
Old Tenor and I,
Did sit down and cry,
When we thought of your future deception.

Enough we have done,
Without you, my son,
To turn the whole State topsy-turvy!

Let our troubles then teach you,
We humbly beseech you,
To fly from a treatment so scurvy.

But your mother will say,
She will dress you up gay,
With garments all wrought from her spinning,
You had better, I vags,
Live still in your rags,
In fragments of cotton and linen.

For your mother is weak,
She's lame and she's sick,
And quite in a helpless condition,
Not able, I've said it,
To keep up your credit,
Or save your poor soul from perdition.

She will try, but in vain,
Your faith to maintain,
By a tender on suits and contentions,
But no one will sue,
What then will you do?
You will surely make feuds and dissensions.

How will you contrive,
My fate to survive?
Your emblems are not worth a farthing;
The merchant will spite you,
The lawyer will slight you,
And priests will not care for your starving.

There's a foe in disguise,
That will pick out your eyes,
And all your fine garments bespatter.
He is hard—you are soft—
Such struggles too oft,
Turn out to the loss of the latter.

You may strive and may tease,
But never will please—
You never will suit and content all;
So stay where you are,
Or alas! you will share,
The future of old Continental.

McCarthy's Songs.

MEDALS OF LAFAYETTE.

THE following Medal was omitted in the list given by Mr. Appleton, (p. 4, Vol. 6.)

XXIX. Heads of WASHINGTON, KOSCIUSKO, LAFAYETTE. Around the three heads the legend, "TO THE HERO'S OF LIBERTY THE FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE'S INDEPENDENCE." "ROGAT." Rev. Three wreathes of leaves tied with ribbons with the following legends beneath them respectively. "George Washington, Born the 22d Feb'y, 1732, at Bridge-Creek, Died the 14th December, 1799, at Mount Vernon." "Thadeus Kosciusko, Born the 12th Feb'y, 1746, at Merazowszezyzna, Died the 16th Oct. 1847, at Soleure." "Lafayette M. J. P. R. Y. Gilbert DuMottier, Born the 6th September, 1757, at Chaviniac, Died the 20th May, 1834, in Paris." Exergue. "Cerde Britannique, Rue Neuve St. Augustin, No. 55 A Paris." Bronze, size 33.

XXX. Mr. J. S. Randall has one with same obverse as 25, 6, and 7, with the following Reverse: PLANK PLANED AND MATCHED BY W. P. HASKINS 435 RIVER STREET. TROY, N. Y. ALSO GROUND NOVA SCOTIA PLASTER FOR SALE, 1834. Copper, size 18.

HALF DOLLARS OF 1801-2-3 and 5.

Editors of Journal,

Gentlemen,—I see by the Transactions of the Boston Numismatic Society, as published in the Journal, that the meeting of April 13 last was principally devoted to an exhibition of United States Coin of 1803, 4, and 5. As to the half dollars of those years, I would call attention to the number of arrows in the talon of the eagle. From the examination of the pieces in my own collection, I find but twelve on the issue for 1801 and 2; an issue of 1803 with twelve and one with thirteen arrows. But on all issues since that date, of the half dollar of that type, I find thirteen arrows, with the exception of the issue of 1805 from the altered die of 1804, which has but twelve. Is there more than one variety of the half dollar of 1805 from an altered die of 1804? And is there any other issue of this type of the half dollar, of later date than 1803, with but twelve arrows?

Norwich, Chenango Co., N. Y.

J. S. R.

ENGRAVED MEDALET.

Editors of Journal,

Gentlemen,—I am anxious to know the history of the engraved medal having on each side a head in "face" and with this inscription one side, "GIVE THY JUDGEMENTS UNTO THE KING." On the other, "AND THY RIGHTEOUSNESSE UNTO THE KING'S SONNE." I have two, bought at different places, and at wide intervals of time; it must have a history. Yours truly,

Charleston, S. C., June 30, 1871.

J. H. T.

The medalet referred to above, of which there are many extant, is said to have been engraved by Simon Passe, who had executed others of a similar character. The figure on the reverse is intended for King James's son Charles. It is supposed that the piece was engraved at the latter part of the reign of James I., [1603-1625,] when Charles, Prince of Wales, was twenty-four or twenty-five years of age.—See Notes and Queries, Vols. 1 and 2, 4th Series, London, 1867-8.

COIN COLLECTING.

THE perplexity of a coin collector is very pleasantly related in the following:

YORK, [England] 16 April.

My Dear Sir,—I think all the York Tokens must have gone to the devil or some place equally distant, for I never by any chance see or even hear of one. I have repeatedly asked after them, but never succeeded in meeting any. I have not forgotten them, and I have no doubt but that I shall drop upon a nest of 'em some day; if I should you are the man for 'em. The coin trade is almost *in statu quo* with me. I find it too unprofitable, but one expects to pay for one's fancies, and I must not expect to get scot free. With best respects, I remain, my dear Sir, very truly yours, G. H. S.

QUERIES.

THE following described token in my collection I have never seen duplicated. A copper piece of about the size and thinness and having the style of workmanship corresponding to the Glorius III. Vis piece. Obverse, the head of George the Second, with legend divided as follows: CORNWALLIS IND. Reverse, the goddess of liberty seated with sceptre in one hand and branch of olive (?) in the other; legend DELECTAN DVS. In the exergue, 1000. Can any reader of the "Journal" give its history?

I have a Tetradrachm about which I desire all the information that it is natural one would feel like having respecting such a coin. Obverse, a filleted male head with heavy beard and mustachios. Reverse, Jupiter standing, holding a victory in the left hand, and with the right hurling a thunderbolt. In the exergue some half dozen letters not distinct enough to be certainly made out at least by myself. Parallel with the figure of Jupiter, on either side of him, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΚΑΣΑΝΑΡΟΥ. Between the last name and Jupiter is the Monogram ΠΡ.

On consulting our distinguished townsman, Dr. Joseph Thomas, the lexicographer, he confirmed my supposition that the only King Cassander of history, was Alexander the Great's general of that name, and that certain points well known to numismatists as characteristics of genuineness, were to be found in this coin. The want of a duplicate π in spelling the name of the king he deemed immaterial, as both ways were employed. He believed it to be genuine, notwithstanding the following passage to be found in Humphrey's Manual, Vol. I, p. 83, viz: "No coins of this unscrupulous usurper are known except a few coarse ones of copper, which have the head of Hercules, like the coins of Alexander, on the obverse, and the old type of the Macedonian horseman on the reverse, with the inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΚΑΣΣΑΝΑΡΟΥ."

Ancient coins of the Greeks and Romans are counterfeited in such numbers, that it is a favor to collectors to be informed where they are in danger of being deceived. Any information that will either confirm my belief, which is favorable to the tetradrachm described, or reveal its true character if a deception, will be gladly received through the medium of this periodical by

E. M.

Philadelphia, 7th month, 1871.

MONEY-DIGGING IN MAINE.

THE history of money-digging in Maine is somewhat curious. There has scarcely ever been a time when the subject did not attract attention. Kendall, in his *Travels*, gives an account of a great sensation created in connection with the subject in the beginning of the present century, at Norridgewock, where a man and his two sons gave out that they had found immense treasures, and, on the strength of the representation, swindled the community out of a large amount of property. At that time a person was going about in the interior, lecturing on the subject of hidden treasure, and exciting the imagination of the people.

From time to time money has actually been found. Not long since, a pot of gold and a signet-ring were discovered on Richmond Island, [see *Journal of Numismatics*, v. 33.] near Portland, by a farmer, Mr. Hanscom, when ploughing. Four hundred dollars in French crowns, were found in a field near Frenchman's Bay; near Castine, a large collection of old coins was found by Captain Stephen Grindle, in the year 1840-41. The place pointed out is on the bank of the Bagaduce, six miles from the site of the fort. At this point, perhaps, was the old road to Mount Desert.

About the close of November, 1840, Captain Grindle was engaged with his son, hauling wood down to the shore, when the latter picked up a piece of money near a partially buried rock, lying about seventy-five feet from the shore, and in the old line of a beaten track that had existed for time out of mind. Tradition says that one of the Indian routes from the peninsula of Castine to Mount Desert and Frenchman's Bay, was up the Bagaduce, and thence across to Blue-Hill Bay.

The coin found was a French piece. This prize led them to commence digging in the ground, which they continued doing until dark, the search being rewarded by nearly twenty additional coins. During the night the snow fell, and nothing more was done until Spring, when two coins were found embedded in the top of the rock. An iron bar thrust into the opening, revealed the presence of a large quantity, numbering nearly five hundred pieces of different nations. Mr. Grindle's wife gleefully held her apron, which was loaded by her husband and son, she at the same time declaring that it was "the best lapful she had ever carried."

These may have been lost or hidden by Baron Castine, when, in 1688, he fled to the woods to escape from Governor Andros. One of the silver coins was recently shown me at Somesville, by the person who received it from the finder.

Still nearer this spot, on the east side of the Sound, opposite Fernald's Point, money has also been found. At least such is the common belief, which is based on good evidence. The reputed finder still lives (1868,) on the place, where, according to the testimony of a man once in his employ, he discovered a pot of gold. At all events his circumstances appear to have suddenly changed, when he rose from a condition of hardship to one of comparative affluence and ease. That gold may have been buried there is not at all unlikely. When Argall attacked St. Savior, a part of the French were scattered in the woods and among the neighboring islands, and gold may have been buried by them at the place in question, and never recovered.

All these circumstances taken together, lead the somewhat credulous farmers and fishermen to imagine that gold is everywhere buried on their lands. This suspicion is strengthened by Spiritualists and Divining-rod men, who go from place to place, practicing upon the unsophisticated. We found one of the Spiritualists here in this valley. He was a man of somewhat good features, with gray beard and hair, and a wild light in his eye. The diggers at first gave us the impression that they were making a cellar, but gradually the owner of the ground, a red-faced man, half farmer and half fisherman, unfolded the tremendous secret.—[*Rambles in Mount Desert*, by B. F. De Costa, New York, 1871, pp. 54-57.

AN EARLY BOSTON MEDAL.

A MEDAL was struck (in Boston?) in silver, copper and white metal, in 1787, to commemorate the fitting out of two vessels—the "Columbia" and the "Washington,"—for trading on the North-West Coast. The following description is made from one before us, belonging to Mr. Sylvester S. Crosby, a member of the Boston Numismatic Society. COLUMBIA AND WASHINGTON, COMMANDED BY J. KENDRICK, with a ship and a sloop in the centre. Obverse. FITTED AT BOSTON, N. AMERICA, FOR THE PACIFIC OCEAN, BY J. BARRELL, S. BROWN, C. BULFINCH, J. DARBY, C. HATCH, J. M. PINTARD, 1787.*

The "Washington" at this time was commanded by Captain Robert Gray, who afterward, while in command of the Columbia, discovered the river which now bears his vessel's name. "They, moreover, carried out, for distribution at such places as they might visit, a number of small copper coins, then recently issued by the State of Massachusetts, and likewise medals of copper, struck expressly for that purpose, of one of which a representation is given" in Robert Greenhow's *History of Oregon and California*, Boston, 1844. "Alexander Mackenzie, in July, 1793, found, in the possession of a native of the country east of the Strait of Fuca, a halfpenny of the State of Massachusetts Bay, coined in 1787, which was doubtless one of those taken out by Kendrick and Gray."

S. A. G.

Captain John Kendrick was born on Martha's Vineyard, and at one time resided at Wareham, Mass. He was captain of a privateer during the war of the American Revolution. He was killed by the bursting of a cannon on the North-West Coast, about the year 1800.

The Columbia was commanded by John Kendrick, the Washington by Capt. Robert Gray; they sailed from Boston on the 30th of September, 1787.

Capt. Gray first saw the mouth of the Columbia River, and was the discoverer. Thence he took a cargo to China, and from there to Boston, where he arrived in August, 1790. He sailed again and reached the Straits of Fuca in June, 1791. In the spring of 1792, he made another voyage from there to Canton, and thence to the United States. He continued to command trading vessels from Boston, until his death at Charleston, S. C.,

* In 1787, the above-named gentlemen fitted out the Columbia, of two hundred and twenty tons, and the sloop Washington of ninety tons, for the purpose of trading on the North-West Coast.

in 1806. He was born at Tiverton, R. I., in 1755. Two of his daughters are still living in Boston.

Joseph Barrell was an affluent and well known citizen of Boston.

Charles Bulfinch, a native of Boston, graduated at Harvard College in 1781; was an architect by profession. He drew the plans of the State House in Boston, and of the Capitol at Washington, in which city he lived for several years. He died in Boston, April 15, 1844, aged 41.

Samuel Brown was a native of Newport, R. I.; he came to Boston at an early age, was a successful merchant, and highly respected. He died in Boston, and his remains were carried to Newport.

John Derby, sometimes written Darby, a descendant of Roger Derby, one of the first settlers of Salem, was a shipmaster and merchant of Salem, Mass., where he was born June 7, 1741; died Dec. 5, 1812.

Crowell Hatch was a well known merchant of Boston.

Of John M. Pintard we have been unable to learn anything.

We understand that it is in contemplation, by parties interested in the narrative of the enterprise to which the above Medal refers, to publish an account of it at an early day.

J. C.

CONSERVATION OF COINS.

NOTHING contributes so much to the conservation of coins, of brass or copper, as the fine rust which appears, like varnish, which their lying in particular soil occasions. Gold admits no rust but iron mould, when lying in a particular soil. Silver takes many kinds, but chiefly green and red, which yield to vinegar; in gold and silver the rust is prejudicial, and to be removed; whereas in brass and copper, it is preservative and ornamental. This fine rust, which is indeed a natural varnish, not imitable by any effort of human art, is sometimes of a bronze brown, and sometimes of an exquisite green. These rusts are all, when the real product of time, as hard as the metal itself, and preserve it much better than any artificial varnish could have done. There is another blemish of ancient coins, which, notwithstanding, rather recommends them to the curious than otherwise. It is when coins of genuine antiquity are found split on the edges, or even in the middle, by the force of the hammer, but this, far from being regarded as a fault, is looked upon as a great merit by the collector, it being considered as additional proof of its antiquity.

Gold may be cleaned from any prejudicial rust, by acid; spirit of nitre eats every thing but gold, and is, therefore, an effectual cleanser of that metal. The green, blue, or red rust, may be removed from silver, by steeping in vinegar for a day or two. Brass and copper should never be cleansed when very much covered with rust; the best way when it is attempted, is to boil in water for twenty-four hours, with three parts tartar and one part alum, then cleanse with bran.

But it is dangerous business to cleanse coins, and should always be committed to skillful hands, or let alone. It is apt to occasion surprise, that ancient coins should be found in such good conservation as they usually are.

A late writer observes that the chief reason is the custom of the ancients, always to bury one or more coins with their dead, in order to pay Charon for their passage. The tombs were sacred, and untouched, and afterward neglected, till modern curiosity and chance began to disclose them. The urn of Flavia Valentia contained seven coins of Antoninus Pius and Elagabalus. At Syracuse a skeleton was found in a tomb, with a beautiful gold coin in its mouth. Hardly a funeral urn is found without coins. In Sicily, numerous silver coins with the head of Proserpine were found. Roman coins in great numbers were found in Modena and near Brest.—*Essay on Medals*, John Pinkerton, 2 vols. London, 1808.

NATIONAL COLLECTIONS OF COINS.

THE collection of Medals and Coins, of the king of Spain, at Madrid, contains above 3,000 gold coins, more than 30,000 in silver, and upwards of 50,000 in copper. The collection at Vienna is much more extensive, containing some 25,000 Greek coins of all metals, above 30,000 Roman, and nearly 40,000 of the middle ages. The National Collection of France surpasses all others in numbers, and the rarity and beauty of its specimens are unrivalled. The British Museum contains a very large and valuable collection, and the Emperor of Russia has one of much value, but not extensive.

FIRST STEPS TOWARDS AMERICAN COINAGE.

WE notice below, some of the first steps towards coining in America, principally, it will be seen, relating to copper coinage:

In 1753, [Geo. II.] Arthur Dobbs, governor of the State of North Carolina, sent a proposal to the home government to coin copper money for that Colony. It was never carried into effect.

Under Geo. III. an Act was passed [Statute 56, Geo. III. C. 68.] to enable his majesty to authorize the exportation of the machinery necessary for erecting a mint in America. This was never carried into execution, but copper coin was struck for the Colony of Virginia, bearing on the obverse the head of Geo. III., on the reverse "Virginia, 1773," with a coat of arms. (*Ruding.*)

Col. Seth Reed, of Uxbridge, petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts, in 1786, for a patent to strike copper coin. It is said that the "Immunis Columbia, 1786," rev. a shield with "E Pluribus Unum," was presented by him as a pattern.

It has been truly remarked, that the coins of ancient nations are among the most interesting and the most reliable of historical records, and it is a matter of regret that metallic and enduring memorials are now confined to medals struck to commemorate some particular event, whose number is very limited, and which obtained little circulation among the multitude. There is no reason why a metallic currency should not be the vehicle, as in times called classical, of much historical instruction. Why should not coins be made the recorders of interesting events?—*Sir John Bowring.*

THERE are, quite common, a great number of Tokens and Medals, contemptible in design and rude in workmanship, consisting of the most trifling varieties, formed by crossing dies which conjoin absurd and incongruous obverses and reverses, changing dates, &c., with a view to derive a little paltry profit from a few Collectors, who, it is to be regretted, encourage such impositions.—*Anon.*

DEVICES ON THE CONTINENTAL BILLS OF CREDIT WITH CONJECTURES OF THEIR MEANING.*

AN emblematic device when rightly formed, is said to consist of two parts—a body and a mind, neither of which is intelligible without the aid of the other. The figure is called the body—the motto the mind. These that I am about to consider appear formed on that rule; and seem to relate to the present struggle between the colonies and the parent state for liberty, property and safety on the one hand; for absolute power and plunder on the other.

On one denomination of the bills there is the figure of a harp with this motto: *Majora Minoribus Consonant*—literally “the greater and smaller ones sound together.” As the harp is an instrument composed of great and small strings included in a strong frame, and also so tuned as to agree in concord with each other, I conceive that the frame may be made to represent our new government by a continental congress, and the strings of different length and substance, either the several colonies of different weight and force, or the various marks of people in all of them who are now united by that government in the most perfect harmony.

On another bill is impressed a wild boar of the forest rushing on the spear of the hunter, with this motto: *Aut Mors aut vita decora*: †—which may be translated “Death or Liberty.” The wild boar is an animal of great strength and courage, armed with long and sharp tusks which he well knows how to use in his own defence. He is inoffensive while suffered to enjoy his freedom, but when roused and wounded by the hunter, often turns and makes him pay dearly for his temerity.

On another is drawn an eagle on the wing, pouncing upon a crane, who turns upon his back and receives the eagle upon the point of his long bill, which pierces the eagle's breast, with this motto: “*Exitus in dubio est*”—“The event is uncertain.” The eagle I suppose represents Great Britain; the crane America: this device offers an admonition to each of the contending parties—to the crane not to depend too much upon the success of its endeavors to avoid the contest (by petition, negotiation, &c.), but to prepare for using the means God and nature have given it; to the eagle not to presume on its strength, since a weaker bird may wound it mortally.

“*Sunt dubii eventus, incertaque prælia Martis:
Vincitur haud raro, qui prope victor erat.*”

On another bill we have a thorn which a hand seems attempting to eradicate: the hand appears to bleed as pricked by the spines. The motto is *Sustine vel Abstine*: which may be rendered, “Bear with me or let me alone” or thus: “either support or leave me.” The bush I suppose to mean America, and the bleeding hand Britain. Would to God that bleeding were stopped, the wounds of the hand healed, and its future operation directed by wisdom and equity: so shall the hawthorn flourish and form a hedge around it, annoying with her thorns only its invading enemies.

Another has the figure of a beaver gnawing a large tree, with this motto: *Perseverando*—“By perseverance.” I apprehend the great tree may be

* From an Almanac published in 1777, and mentioned in the Historical Magazine, vol. v, pp. 71-73.

† A more literal translation would be, “Death or an honorable life,” in which form it has been used as the Company motto of the “Boston Light Infantry,” a corps which was chartered in 1798, and is still enjoying an “honorable life.”—[Ed.]

intended to represent the enormous power Great Britain has assumed over us, and endeavors by force of arms to tax us at pleasure, and bind us in all cases whatsoever: or the exorbitant profits she makes by monopolizing our commerce. Then the beaver, which is known to be able by assiduous and steady working to fell large trees, to signify America, which by perseverance in her present measures, will probably reduce that power within proper bounds, and by establishing the most necessary manufactures among ourselves abolish the British monopoly.

On another bill we have the plant *acanthus*, sprouting on all sides under a weight placed upon it, with the motto: *Depressa Resurgit*—"though oppressed, it rises." The ancients tell us that the sight of such an accidental circumstance gave the first hint to an architect in forming the beautiful capital of the Corinthian column. This perhaps was intended to encourage us by representing that our present oppressions will not destroy us, but that they may by increasing our industry and forcing it into new courses, increase the prosperity of our country, and establish the prosperity on the base of liberty and the well proportioned pillar of property, elevated for a pleasing spectacle to all connoisseurs who can take delight in the architecture of human happiness.

The figures of a hand and flail, over sheaves of wheat, with the motto *Tribulatio Dicitur*—"Threshing improves it" (which we find printed on another of the bills) may perhaps be intended to admonish us that although at present we are under the flail, its blow how hard soever will be rather advantageous than hurtful to us, for they will bring forth every grain of genius and merit in arts, manufactures, war and council that are now concealed in the husk, and then the breath of a breeze will be sufficient to separate us from all the chaff of toryism. Tribulation, too, in our English sense of the word, improves the mind; it makes us humble and tends to make us wiser. And threshing in one of its senses, that of beating, often improves those that are threshed. Many an unwarlike nation have been beaten into heroes by troublesome, warlike neighbors: and the continuance of a war, though it lessens the numbers of a people, often increases its strength by increased discipline and consequent courage of the number remaining. Thus England after her civil war in which her people threshed one another, became more formidable to her neighbors. The public distress, too, that arises from war by increasing frugality and industry, often gives habits that remain after the war is over, and thereby naturally enriches those on whom it has enforced those enriching virtues.

Another of these bills has for its device, a storm, descending from a black heavy cloud, with the motto: *Serenabit*—"It will clear up." This seems designed to encourage the dejected, who may be too sensible of present inconveniences and fear their continuance. It reminds them agreeably to the adage, that after a storm comes a calm; or, as Horace more elegantly has it:

*"Informes hyemes reducit, Jupiter idem summovit,
Non si male nunc, et olim
Sic erit neque semper arcum tendit Apollo."*

On another bill there is stamped the representation of a tempestuous sea: a face with swollen cheeks wrapped in a black cloud, appearing to blow

violently on the waters, the waves high and all rolling one way. The motto *Vi Concitata*, which may be rendered, "Raised by force." From the remotest antiquity in figurative language, great waters have signified the people, and waves an insurrection. The people of themselves are supposed to be as naturally inclined to be still, as the waters to remain level and quiet. Their rising here does not appear to be from any internal cause, but from an external power expressed by the head Eolus, god of the winds (or Boreas, the north wind, as usually the most violent), acting furiously upon them. The black cloud perhaps designs the British parliament, and the waves the colonies. Their rolling all in one direction shows that the very force used against them has produced their unanimity. On the reverse of this bill we have a smooth sea; the sails of a ship on that sea hanging loose, to show a perfect calm: the sun shining fully denotes the clear sky. The motto is, *Cessante vento conquiescemus*—"The wind ceasing, we shall be quiet." Supposing my explanation of the preceding device to be right, this will import that when those violent acts of power which have aroused the colonies are repelled, they will return to their former tranquillity. Britain seems thus charged with being the sole cause of the present civil war, at the same time that the only mode for putting an end to it is thus plainly pointed out to her.

The last is a wreath of laurel on a marble monument or altar, with the motto: *Si recte*—"If you act rightly." This seems intended as an encouragement to a brave and steady conduct in defence of our liberties, as it promises to crown with honor by the laurel wreath those who persevere to the end in well doing, and with a long duration of that honor expressed by the monument of marble. A learned friend of mine thinks this device more particularly addressed to the Congress. He says that the ancients composed for their heroes a wreath of laurel, oak and olive twigs interwoven, agreeably to the distich:

*"E lauro, quercu, atque olea, duce, digna Corona,
Prudentem, fortem, pacificumque decet—"*

Of laurel as that tree was dedicated to Apollo, and understood to signify knowledge and prudence; of oak as pertaining to Jupiter, and expressing fortitude; of olive as the tree of Pallas, and as a symbol of peace. The whole to show that those who are intrusted to conduct the affairs of mankind, should act prudently and firmly, retaining above all a pacific disposition. The wreath was first placed upon an altar to admonish the hero who was to be crowned with it, that true glory is founded on and proceeds from piety. My friend therefore thinks that the present device might intend a wreath of that composite kind, although from the smallness of the work the engraver could not mark distinctly the differing leaves. And he is rather confirmed in his opinion that this is designed as an admonition to the congress when he is considering the passage in Horace from whence the motto is taken:

*"Rex eris aium
Si recte facies."*

To which also Antonius alludes:

"Si recte faciet, non qui dominatur erit rex."

Not the king's parliament who act wrong, but the people's congress, if it act right, shall govern America.

NEW FRENCH COINS.

Notes and Queries of July 29th, gives the following description of two coins of the French Republic of 1870, one a silver piece of five francs, the other a bronze piece of ten centimes. The five-franc piece bears a bust of a female figure symbolical of the Republic, and wreathed with oak, laurel flowers and wheat. The first six letters of the word "concorde," are inscribed on a band on the forehead. This band is continued and hangs down behind the ear, with a pearl necklace round the neck. Above the bust is a large five-pointed star, and below is the artist's name. The legend is, "Republique Francaise." The reverse contains the legend, "5 Francs, 1870," in three lines within a large wreath, of branches of oak and laurel twined together. The circumscription is, "Liberte. Egalite. Fraternite." with a point or stop after each word. Before the word "Liberte," is a small sprig of laurel. At the bottom is a small letter "A," between a bee and an anchor, signifying the Paris mint. The edge of the coin is inscribed, "Dieu protege la France," or, "God protect France." The weight of the coin is 24 grammes or 370 grains. The bronze piece of 10 centimes has nearly the same design on the obverse as the five franc piece. The reverse contains the legend, "10 Centimes," surrounded by a wreath composed of one branch of laurel and one of oak, tied together with the same circumspection as on the silver piece. The edge is plain, and the weight is 146 grains, being the same as the English bronze penny. It is to be remarked that the "E" on the ten centime piece is marked with the accent.

During the late Revolution in France, the insurgents found the old dies which were used under the Republic of 1850 and struck coins from them, a specimen of which is now before us. Instead of the star being "five-pointed," it had six points. The changes made in the present die are very slight.

CURIOUS COINCIDENCE.

AKIN to the recent centennial celebration of the birth of Sir Walter Scott, the following curious coincidence, narrated on apparently good authority, is worth preserving:

In "The Pirate," one of the characters, Triptolemus by name, discovers a horn full of silver coins under his hearth-stone, which disappears again through the agency of the oracular Norna's creature, the dwarf. While the sheets of the novel were passing through the press, some workmen, taking up the foundation of an old wall within a very short distance of the supposed residence of Norna of the Fitful Head, came upon the hearth-stone, under which they found a horn filled with coins of the Heptarchy.

TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

THE NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA.

A STATED meeting of this Society was held on the evening of the 1st of June, at its hall No. 524 Walnut Street, the President, Hon. Eli K. Price, in the chair. The usual outline business was transacted, and many donations and letters were announced as having been received since the last meeting, among the latter from Hon. Charles Francis Adams, acknowledging his election as an Honorary Member of the Society, and from William Blackmore, of Salisbury, England, Frederic Kidder, of Melrose, Mass., and T. Apoleon Cheney, LL. D., of Lyons, N. Y., as Corresponding Members. Messrs. Adams, Blackmore and Cheney, also presented their photographs for the Album, in response to the resolution of the Society requesting members to do so.

The committee on procuring a new hall for the Society, in the western part of the city, reported its inability as yet to obtain a suitable place, and on motion, was continued.

A communication was read relative to the lately discovered pre-historic caverns and their occupants, in Ribesdale, England.

On motion, Daniel G. Brinton, M. D., the Curator of Antiquities, was requested to prepare a paper, to be read before the Society at its meeting in July, 1876, on the Study and Discovery of American Antiquities during the past century.

On motion, the Committee on Numismatics was requested to consider the propriety of having a medal struck commemorative of the approaching centennial celebration in 1876, and to report thereon to the Society.

Mr. Hart, the historiographer, offered for the consideration of the Society, a letter which he had prepared in the form of a circular to be sent to each of the members of the Society, containing a request for biographical information, to be preserved in its archives for future use in preparing the regular memorials of deceased members, which was adopted and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Charles Piers exhibited a map of Paris engraved in 1734, consisting of twenty sections, on a very large scale, each plate being about three feet square. He also showed to the Society an old atlas of France, published in 1791.

Mr. Hoffman exhibited an original prospectus and subscription list of the *United States Gazette*, dated 1791, issued at Philadelphia by his great-grandfather, John Fenno,—Fenno's grand-daughter, the child of John Ward Fenno, having married his father, the eminent jurist Josiah Ogden Hoffman, also some MSS. and correspondence relating thereto, including a fine photograph letter of Thomas Jefferson.

It was announced to the Society that Mr. Phillips, its Corresponding Secretary, and Mr. Hibler, its Recording Secretary, would leave on the 10th inst., for a somewhat protracted tour in Europe, whereupon they were authorized to communicate with kindred societies and institutions abroad, and report the result upon their return. Mr. Hart was requested to act as

Corresponding Secretary, *pro tem.* during Mr. Phillips's absence, and Mr. J. Davis Duffield as Recording Secretary, *pro tem.* in the place of Mr. Hibler.

The Corresponding Secretary's Report to date was read, and on motion, the Society adjourned.

CHARLES HENRY HART,

Corresponding Secretary, pro tem.

PHILADELPHIA, July 20th, 1871.

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

July 6.—The monthly meeting was held at 4 P. M. Mr. Colburn in the chair. The Secretary being absent in Europe, Mr. Crosby was chosen *pro tem.* Mr. Thomas H. Wynne, of Richmond, Va., was elected corresponding member, on motion of the President. Two medals in white metal were received from Mr. Alfred H. Sandham, of Montreal, Canada. One a Masonic Medal, *Obv.* Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, a shield of arms and motto Audi Vide Tace. *Rev.* Within a wreath of laurel and oak — To Commemorate the Union — Consummated 14th July, 1858. The other had in the field, an Indian hatchet and pipe, crossed, quartering the field in saltire, at the left a representation of a Roman coin, and at the right a Canadian coin of Victoria, an antique lamp above and a beaver below. The legend * Numismatic and Archæological Society * Montreal Canada, surrounded the above device. *Rev.* Within a wreath, Instituted 1862. Incorporated 1870.; near the edge of the medal, Sandham's Series, No. 1.

A handsomely bound priced copy of the sale catalogue of the Mackenzie Collection was received from the gentleman from whom that collection took its name. The thanks of the Society were voted to both of the above mentioned donors. Mr. Seavey exhibited eight Connecticut cents of 1788, the half eagle, half dollar and cent of 1812, the same of 1813, the same, and also the dime of 1814, the half eagle and half dollar of 1815, and the cent of 1816. Mr. Robinson, of Salem, exhibited two cents and half dollars of 1812, 1813 and 1814, dime of 1814, half dollar of 1815, and cent of 1816; also two Connecticut cents of 1788. Mr. Crosby exhibited twenty-five Connecticut cents of 1788, and two each of the cents of 1812, 1813, and 1814.

Adjourned to the first Thursday in September.

S. S. CROSBY, *Sec. pro tempore.*

September 7.—Pursuant to adjournment from the July meeting, the Society met at the usual hour, Mr. Colburn in the chair. Mr. Crosby showed several fine specimens of U. S. cents,—five of 1817, varieties; one of 1818, and three of 1819, a rare piece in copper, size 12, having on the obverse a head of Liberty, with thirteen stars. *Rev.* United States of America, One Cent. This piece was considered quite rare. Dr. Green exhibited four cents of 1817, one variety being different from those exhibited by Mr. Crosby. A photograph of the Seal of the Colony of Virginia under Governor Fauquier—1758–1767, George III,—was received from Mr. Wynne, of Richmond, Va. Captain George Henry Preble, U. S. Navy, presented a copy in manuscript of the correspondence relating to the medal given to Commodore Edward

Preble, with an engraving of the medal, bearing a representation of the capture of Tripoli in 1804. The thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Wynne and Captain Preble for the gifts. The U. S. coinage of the years 1820, '21, '22 and '23 were named for the next meeting.

Adjourned.

SAMUEL A. GREEN, *Sec. pro tempore.*

LIVERPOOL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

THE Liverpool Numismatic Society, [England,] is a newly formed institution. Its members seem to enter into the objects of the Society with much spirit and enthusiasm. At their meeting on the evening of the third of August last, we notice that Mr. F. W. Lincoln, of the firm of W. S. Lincoln & Son, Numismatists, 462 New Oxford Street, London, made the Society a donation of a fine collection of English coins; our own Society, some years since, were the recipients of Mr. Lincoln's generosity. We can commend the Messrs. Lincoln to any one desirous of adding to, or forming, a Collection of Ancient or Foreign Coins.

LINCOLN MEDALS.

Editors of the Journal of Numismatics:

At your request I give below a list of the Lincoln medals in my collection *not* mentioned by Mr. Boyd in his "Lincoln Bibliography."

No. 1. Obv. "The Rail-splitter of 1830"—a man engaged in splitting rails. Rev. Same without the legend. Size 26.

No. 2. Obv. Bust of Lincoln on plain field. Rev. "The right man in the right place." Size 22.

No. 3. Obv. "Abraham Lincoln. Bust facing to the right. Rev. "Monitor." Size 17.

No. 4. Obv. "Abraham Lincoln, 1864." Bust facing to the right. Rev. "First Battalion Union Campaign Club"—cannons, flags, &c., in the centre. Size 16.

No. 5. Obv. "A. Lincoln." Rev. Broken column. Size 12.

New York, August, 1871.

A. C. Z.

GOLD! GOLD! GOLD! GOLD!

BRIGHT and yellow, hard and cold;
Molten, graven, hammered and rolled;
Heavy to get and light to hold;
Hoarded, bartered, bought and sold;
Stolen, borrowed, squandered, doled;
Spurned by the young, but hugged by the old
To the very verge of the churchyard mould;
Price of many a crime untold!
Gold! Gold! Gold! Gold!
Good or bad a thousand fold!—*Thomas Hood.*

LUCKY PENNIES.

THE ancient superstition that some valuable offering must be made, to secure the favor of the unseen divinity whose caprice might grant a fortunate or unfortunate termination to a voyage or a journey, is an interesting study to the numismatist, and can be traced in many forms from the earliest days to the present time. Sailors, particularly, have been under its control. When the mariners of old found their voyage to Tarshish prevented by threatening storms, they "took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea; and the sea ceased from her raging." Jason and his companions, before departing from Samothrace, on their famous voyage in the Argo,—“the first ship that ever sailed the sea,”—offered sacrifices in the temple, that their search for the golden fleece might prove successful. Arion, while returning with his wealth to Lesbos, would have been slain by the sailors for his money, had he not thrown himself into the sea, but the dolphins, so the story ran, carried him safely to land, and the *luck*, which might have been the sailors', had *they* thrown him over, accompanied the willing sacrifice, and he saved not only his life but his fortune.

In our own times the sailors of Boston retain the old tradition. It is said that “generations of fishermen have thrown *lucky pennies* on Half-way Rock, between Boston and Gloucester, on their outward voyages, to insure a full fare and a safe trip. The clefts of the rock are full of copper and nickel cents, from the earliest issues down to the coinage of to-day.” In the year 1820, the sea washed down a rock on the coast of Jersey, England, and in the clefts were discovered nearly a thousand pieces of ancient Gaulish coins.* We know not whether the Jersey mariners made the rock the scene of a similar offering ages ago, but it is not improbable.

But this idea of the propitiatory power of money was not confined to sailors: The Greeks looked upon death as a journey to another world, involving a voyage across the sluggish Styx, whose waters they believed separated Hades from Earth. Accordingly, one of the first duties to a departed friend was placing in his mouth the “Danake,” the name given to the obolus used for that purpose, which was Charon's fee for ferrying over the spirit to the Elysian fields. This is the coin so frequently found in ancient tombs. At the opening of a grave at Same, in Cephallenia, a coin was found between the teeth of the skeleton, and other similar instances are well known. The Romans adopted the custom in imitation of the Greeks. They believed that the spirits of those whose remains failed to receive this funeral rite, whether from poverty or neglect, were forced to wander on the banks of the Styx a hundred years, before they could gain the further shore; while those who could tender payment, passed over at once to the blessed land. Juvenal, in his third Satire, ridicules his fellow countrymen for the superstition, describing the penniless ghost in these words:

At ille

Jam sedet in ripa, tetrumque novicius horret
Porthmea, nec sperat cœnosi gurgitis alnum
Infelix, nec habet, quem porrigat, ore trientem.

* *Numismatic Chronicle*, Vol. ii, p. 140.

It would be an interesting study to trace this idea of good fortune, which attaches to coins, in many other directions. The crooked sixpence in the purse, the broken coin divided between lovers, and many other similar instances might be named. We suggest the investigation of the extent of this idea of lucky pennies to some of our antiquarian friends. M.

Boston, September, 1871.

TAMPERING WITH COIN.

THE last report of the Assayer of the Mint of Philadelphia, contains some interesting information in regard to the various methods of counterfeiting gold coins, or abstracting from them a part of their value. In one lot of \$1,000, there were 34 double eagles. Two of these had been burnt or blistered, but as they were very slightly under weight, the object of the roasting has not been discovered. The other pieces were all from 10 to 20 grains light—that is, reduced from 40 to 80 cents in value. One was filed smoothly nearly all around the outer edge, but all the others retained the “milling,” which had been restored after the filing. In this way fifty cents’ worth of gold was taken from each piece without sensibly diminishing its diameter. In one or two cases, where from 22 1-2 to 58 1-2 grains had been taken away, the eye would detect the loss.

One piece was reduced by the use of acid. This treatment makes the surface rough, so that it is easily detected. In the same lot there were ten eagles which had been filed, and two treated with acid, the latter being quite spoiled. A number of counterfeits were found in the same lot. The best piece was light only two and a half grains, but some of its lettering was very bad. This piece contained about 69 per cent pure gold, the genuine coin containing 90 per cent. Some of the poorer pieces contain only about 50 per cent. Another lot of coins had been split and filled with platinum. The best method of detecting filled or counterfeit pieces is by finding their specific gravity by weighing in water.—*N. Y. Eve. Post.*

COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY.

FOR some weeks past the number of counterfeit fifty cent notes detected at the redemption bureau of the Treasury Department has been very large; between two and three hundred dollars of such counterfeits are discovered daily. They are immediately branded and returned to the persons sending them in for redemption. Consequently the loss falls upon such persons.

August, 1870.

The government would do a good thing if it would order an issue of half-dollar pieces in silver, of a trifle lighter weight than the present; these would soon drive from circulation the fifty cent paper currency, and be more acceptable to the community.

VALUE OF AMERICAN COINS IN GERMANY.

THE "*Numismatischer Verkehr*," for July, 1871, issued by C. G. Thieme, Leipzig, Germany, contains a list of some 2,000 Medals and Coins, with prices. We note the following, as showing the value of American pieces in Germany, where there are several collectors of American Coins, subscribers to our *Journal*.

Amerika. Vereinigte Staaten. $\frac{1}{4}$ Dollar 1823, Stplgl, 1 R 5 Ngr. Do. $\frac{1}{4}$ Dollar 1821, s. g., 1 R 5 Ngr. Amerika, $\frac{1}{4}$ Dollar 1834, s. g., 20 Ngr. Do. Vereinigte Staaten. $\frac{1}{4}$ Dollar 1835, g., 20 Ngr. Do. $\frac{1}{4}$ Dollar v. 1854. u. 1855, a 1 R. Do. 3 Cent 1861, g., 5 Ngr. Do. $\frac{1}{4}$ Dollar 1861, s. g., 20 Ngr. Do. One Decime 1862, g., 6 Ngr. New Jersey. Cent 1787, Pferdekopf uber Pflug und Schild, Gr. 27. Neum. 21627. g., 16 Ngr. Do. Gr. 23. Neum. 21627. g., 16 Ngr. Nordamerika. Vereinigte Staaten. Cent von 1794, s. g., 8 Ngr. Canada. 1 Sous 1837, Wappen und stehender Mann. g., 8 Ngr. Do. 2 Sous—One Penny 1837, Wappen und stehender Mann, g., 10 Ngr. Do. Cyt Bank, One Penny 1837, (Deux Sous,) s. g., 6 Ngr. Louisiana. Cent 1721, H. Neum. 21671. g., 5 Ngr. Massachusetts. Cent v. 1788, Adl. u. Indianer. Neum. 21621. g., 15 Ngr. Amerika. Broncirte Zinn-Med. auf die Industrie-Ausstellung in New York 1852 & 53, Gr. 23, s. g., 10 Ngr. Franklin & Montyon. Br.-Med. 1833, Gr. 19, schon., 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ Ngr. Lincoln, Pres. d. Verein. Staaten, Grosse starke Br.-Med. v. Bovy. Av. Brustb. Rev. Schrift, Gr. 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ Stplgl. sch., 2 R 10 Ngr.

QUERY.

IN 1856, a copper coin was found in a coal mine, on the farm of Mr. John Poulson, in Harrison County, Ohio. On one side was an Indian head with a crown of feathers, and on the other a cross. It was near the mouth of the mine, but imbedded in the solid coal, apparently where placed by nature. I do not remember what letters, if any, were on it; but a full description of it was published at the time in the *Pittsburgh Christian Advocate*.—*Historical Magazine*, vi. 102-3, (March, 1862.)

Will some of our Pennsylvania friends look up the "*Christian Advocate*," of 1856, and send us the full account of the coin?—*Editors of Journal*.

ORIGIN OF STERLING.

THIS word, as applied to coins, is derived from *Easterlings*, people of the north-east of Europe, some of whom were employed, in the 12th century, in regulating the coinage of England. It was not in use before the Conquest, though some have given it a Saxon derivation. From the twelfth century English money was designated, all over Europe, as *Sterling*.

THE ALIQUOT PARTS OF AN ENGLISH SHILLING.

A FARTHING first findes forty-eight,
An halfpenny hopes for twenty-four,
Three farthings seeks out sixteen straight,
A peny puts a dozen lower;
Dicke Dandiprat drewe eight out deade;
Twopence tooke six, and went his way;
Tom Trip-and-goe with four is fled,
But Goodman Grote on three doth stay;
A testime only two doth take:
Moe parts a Shilling cannot make.

A. D. 1600.

FIRST THINGS IN NUMISMATICS.

SILVER first coined at Rome, 269 years before Christ.

SHILLINGS were first coined by Henry VII., in 1503.

TWOPENCES in copper, and the copper penny, were first coined in the reign of Geo. III., 1797. The twopence was inconvenient from its size and weight; the same objection applied to the penny. They are collected as curiosities, but never used as currency.

FARTHINGS, or fourthings, no doubt had their name from the habit of cutting pennies into four parts,—a usual practice in the Anglo-Saxon times. Pennies cut accurately into *halves* (half-pennies), and *fourths* (farthings), are constantly found among Anglo-Saxon coins. In the Anglo-Saxon version of the Gospels, *fourthling* is twice used.—(Matt. v. 26, and Luke xxi. 2.)

COINING with dies, first invented in 1617; first used in England, 1620.

MONEY is first mentioned as a medium of commerce, in the 23d chapter of Genesis.

COINS first made at Argos, 894 B. C.; coined money has increased eighteen times its value from 1200 to 1640, and twelve times its value from 1530 to 1800.

SALE AT FRANKFORT, GERMANY.

WE received a Catalogue of Medals, Coins and Numismatic Books, which were to be sold at Frankfort, Germany, by Herr Joseph Baer, Buchhandler and Antiquar, Rossmarkt 18, on the 7th of August last. There were 3508 lots, and from the degrees of variety affixed to many of the pieces, we should judge that the sale contained very many valuable coins. There were but few English or American (South) specimens.

PICAYUNE APPROPRIATION.

THE smallest appropriation probably ever made by an Act of Legislature was in 1713, when that of New York voted the sum of *sixpence* to William Smith, in full discharge of a debt of £356 17s. 10½d.

DAME SHODDY, in searching for Lubin's perfume,
Wanting "scents" of the *recherche* kind;
Was sent by a wag to a coin-vender's room,
Where, he said, all such things she could find.

The dealer produced a tray of fine coins,
Resplendent in primitive sheen;
"Git out!" said the dame, "'taint them bungtowns I want,
'Tis the *scents* that you *smell of*, I mean."

C. C.

ANCIENT MEDALS AIDS TO HISTORY.

It is certain that Medals give a very great light to History, in confirming such passages as are true in old authors, in settling such as are told after different manners, and in recording such as have been omitted. In this case a cabinet of medals is a body of history. It was indeed the best way in the world to perpetuate the memory of great actions, thus to coin out the life of an emperor, and to put every great exploit into the mint. It was a kind of printing, before the art was invented. It is by this means that Monsieur *Vaillant* has disembroiled a history that was lost to the world before his time, and out of a short collection of medals has given us a chronicle of the kings of *Syria*. For this too is an advantage medals have over books, that they tell their story much quicker, and sum up a whole volume in twenty or thirty reverses. They are indeed the best epitomes in the world, and let you see with one cast of an eye the substance of above a hundred pages.

Another use of medals is, that they not only show you the actions of an emperor, but at the same time mark out the year in which they were performed. Every exploit has its date set to it. A series of an emperor's coins is his life digested into annals. Historians seldom break their relation with a mixture of chronology, nor distribute the particulars of an emperor's story into the several years of his reign; or where they do it, they often differ in their several periods. Here, therefore, it is much safer to quote a medal than an author, for in this case you do not appeal to a *Suetonius* or a *Lampridius*, but to the emperor himself, or to the whole body of a Roman Senate.

Addison, on Ancient Medals.

NOTES.

THE rarest bill of the Continental issue, is that of April 11, 1778, \$30.

THE earliest mention, in the Bible, of currency, is where the dove brought the *green back* to Noah.

"YE King of Pamunkie," on a Virginia Indian Medal or Badge.—*Journal*, Vol. 5, p. 82. "Pamunkeys," a tribe of Indians in Virginia, 1722.—See "Byrd Papers," *Richmond*, 1866.

THE advantage of small coin is to all who have to pay wages, the result of piece work, where fractional payments are to be made, and to all the poor, who have to buy their articles in small quantities.

ON the 21st of June, 1846, were found at York, England, 600 silver pennies of William the Conqueror. Mr. Hawkins, of the British Museum, found among them twenty-five names of moneyers not given by Ruding.

SCENTS.

THE following lines were sent to a shopkeeper by a gentleman who had received from him a penny which he had left upon his counter.

I have the cent you sent to me,
And now I've sent a scent to thee;
Your cent was nickel, as was seen,
My scent is tonqua, that's a bean;
The cent you sent me's very well,
The scent I've sent you is to smell;
That cent was sent I know what for,
This scent is sent to scent your drawer.

EDITORIAL.

WITH the advance of "civilized" ideas, the Japanese are extending the customs of the West in regard to the use of paper money among themselves. We see it stated that they are having a quantity of paper currency printed at Frankfort-on-the-Main. If it expels the silver itzebues as rapidly as our dimes and quarters were driven out by the "postal currency" nuisance, we hope some may drift over here.

SPEAKING of this postal currency, now that Uncle Sam is paying his honest debts in gold, by retiring "5-20" bonds, we wish a concerted effort might be made to retire all the lesser denominations of this filthy currency, which is a disgrace to the pockets as well as the credit of our people. After circulating till it is so dirty it cannot be read, and so completely worn out by handling that the "authorized agents of the Treasury Department" refuse to redeem it, it finally gets put upon some poor woman making her Saturday night purchases, or some fare-taker who had to accept that or nothing has it returned in his wages. The loss in general falls at last on those least able to bear it. A silver coin of slightly less intrinsic value than those which have "gone to Canada" and elsewhere, would in a very short time cure all the mischief, be acceptable to every body, afford employment to our mint, and restore the delightful "jingle," whose music, whether heard on marble counters or in juvenile pockets, has ever a most comfortable sound. General Grant's "silver age" would then be a fitting sequel to the "golden age" of General Jackson's mint-drops. Who will move in this direction first?

THE total amount of paper currency lost or worn out while in circulation, will exceed \$6,500,000, or 15 per cent of the whole issue.

A GENTLEMAN of our acquaintance wears an old-fashioned silver fourpence attached to his watch chain, in affectionate remembrance of his school days.

THE *American Journal of Science and Arts*, for July, has an article giving an account of the "Cardiff Giant." It states that it was cut out of a block of gypsum quarried near Fort Dodge, Iowa. The figure was cut in the workshop of a Mr. Burckhardt, in Chicago, Ill. It was then conveyed to the "Newell Farm" and buried; after seven months it was "accidentally" discovered, and it was said, sold for a very large sum, and has since been exhibited in our principal cities as an "antique;" thousands of persons have been humbugged and others will be.

WATSON & Co., 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia, have issued a priced Catalogue of Coins, Medals, Paper Money, &c. Price 25 cents.

CURRENCY.

READY money is a ready medicine.

MAID of money—a spinster heiress.

IRREDEEMABLE Bonds—Vagabonds.

CHANGE for a Sovereign—a Republic.

A SOVEREIGN Bet—Queen Elizabeth.

LOVERS of the species,—bullion brokers.

ON THE DEPRECIATION OF CONTINENTAL MONEY, 1780.

"A REFUGEE captain lost two of his men;
And ardently wishing to have them again,
To the Major applied on an exchange to fix,
And requested to know *if for two he'd take six?*
Major Adams agreed, nor said a word more,
And Paddy was ordered to fetch them ashore:
Who cried out in surprise: 'Be Jabers, my honey,
Our men now depreciate as fast as our money.'"¹¹

"HUSBAND, I must have some change to-day." "Well, stay at home and take care of the children: that will be change enough."

ERRATA.

In the description of the Augsburg Medal, (p. 7, vol. 6,) read Duke of LUNENBURG in place of Luxemburg.

Page 17, vol. 6, read KITTANNING instead of Kittingning. The error was, of course, obvious to every reader, as none of the Kits have more than two I's.





